

We claim:

1. A fiber optic termination assembly, comprising:

a connector body;

a fiber optic ferrule-supporting structure within the connector body and

presenting to the forward end of the connector a plurality of fiber optic terminating ferrules for a multi-fiber optical cable;

a receptacle body;

a fiber optic ferrule-supporting structure within the receptacle body and

presenting to the forward end of the receptacle a plurality of fiber optic terminating ferrules for a multi-fiber optical cable, at least some of the supported ferrules of the receptacle and connector being axially aligned when the connector and receptacle are mated so as to establish a light-transmitting optical path therebetween;

a connector shutter supported by the connector body and rotatable between a closed position, wherein the shutter covers the connector ferrules, and an open position, wherein the shutter exposes the connector ferrules as to rotate between two positions which open and close the connector aperture; and

a receptacle shutter supported by the receptacle body and rotatable between a closed position, wherein the shutter covers the receptacle ferrules, and an open position, wherein the shutter exposes the receptacle,

the connector and receptacle shutters being operable to move from their closed positions to their open positions upon joining of the connector and the receptacle.

2. The fiber optic termination assembly of claim 1, wherein:

at least one of the connector and receptacle shutters is pivotally supported.

3. A fiber optic termination assembly, comprising:
  - a connector body;
  - a receptacle body, wherein the connector body and the receptacle body each define an aperture in an end of the connector body and receptacle body, respectively;
  - a connector shutter supported by the connector body;
  - a receptacle shutter supported by the receptacle body;
  - wherein the connector shutter and the receptacle shutter each are configured to rotate between a closed position covering the apertures and an open position exposing optical fiber terminations within the respective bodies as the connector body is joined with the receptacle body.
4. The fiber optic termination of claim 3, wherein:
  - the receptacle shutter is pivotably attached to the receptacle body.
5. The fiber optic termination of claim 4, wherein:
  - the receptacle shutter in the closed position pivots from the closed position toward the interior of the receptacle body into the open position.
6. The fiber optic termination of the claim 5, wherein:
  - the receptacle shutter is biased in the closed position when the receptacle body is not joined with the connector body.
7. The fiber optic termination assembly of claim 3, wherein:
  - the connector shutter is pivotably attached to the connector body.
8. The fiber optic termination assembly of claim 7, wherein:
  - the connector shutter in the closed position pivots from the closed position away from the interior of the connector body into the open position.

9. The fiber optic termination assembly of the claim 8, wherein:  
the connector shutter is biased in the closed position when the connector body is not joined with the receptacle body.
10. The fiber optic termination assembly of the claim 9, wherein:  
the connector shutter is formed with a camming surface along an edge.
11. The fiber optic termination assembly of the claim 3, wherein:  
the aperture in the end of the receptacle body is contoured to correspond to a leading edge of the connector body.
12. The fiber optic termination assembly of the claim 11, wherein:  
the receptacle body is formed to accept the connector body with the connector shutter biased in the open position.
13. The fiber optic termination assembly of the claim 12, wherein:  
the receptacle body includes a connector shutter recess configured to accommodate the connector shutter biased in the open position.
14. The fiber optic termination assembly of the claim 13, wherein:  
the receptacle body includes a camming surface formed on a bottom wall of the receptacle body.
15. The fiber optic termination assembly of the claim 14, wherein:  
the receptacle body camming surface is configured to actuate the connector shutter between the closed position and the open position.
16. The fiber optic termination assembly of claim 3, further comprising:  
a switch in the receptacle body operatively connected to an opto-electronic device.

17. A fiber optic connector comprising:
  - a connector body adopted to be received by a receptacle body;
  - a connector shutter supported by the connector body;
  - an aperture defined in an end of the connector body, wherein the connector shutter is normally disposed in a closed position covering the aperture, the exterior of the connector body being configured to actuate a receptacle shutter and establish a fiber-optic connection within a receptacle.
18. The fiber optic connector of claim 17, wherein:
  - the connector shutter is formed with a camming surface along an edge.
19. The fiber optic connector of claim 18, wherein:
  - the connector shutter is configured to pivotably rotate between the closed position and an open position exposing the interior of the connector body.
20. The fiber optic connector of claim 19, wherein:
  - the connector shutter in the closed position pivotably rotates from the closed position away from the interior of the connector body into the open position.
21. The fiber optic connector of claim 20, wherein:
  - the connector shutter pivotably rotates as the shutter camming surface contacts a receptacle camming surface.
22. The fiber optic connector of claim 21, wherein:
  - the connector body is formed with a leading edge contoured to correspond to an aperture in a receptacle body.
23. A fiber optic termination assembly, comprising:
  - a connector body;

a receptacle body, wherein the connector body and the receptacle body each define an aperture in an end of the connector body and receptacle body, respectively; and  
a detector device within the receptacle body, wherein the detector device conditionally activates a power supply operatively connected to a opto-electronic device.

24. The fiber optic termination assembly in claim 23, wherein:

the detection device activates the power supply upon sensing a connection between the connector body and the receptacle body.

25. The fiber optic termination assembly in claim 23, wherein:

the detection device deactivates the power supply upon sensing a disconnection of the connector body and the receptacle body.